GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
LOCAL CALL RATES
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the rate of local call of MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, whether the Government are deliberately benefitting the private sector companies by raising the call rates of MTNL and BSNL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have announced a new policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) No, Sir. As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act, 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs is vested with the TRAI only. The telecom operators, including BSNL & MTNL, are free to fix their tariffs for their customers within the limits prescribed by TRAI. The Government has, thus no role to play in fixing telecom tariffs.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.